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Vancouver metro

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TAPPING IN

TRANSLINK TO FINALLY ROLL OUT COMPASS CARD THIS FALL

metroNEWS

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

CFL tackles domestic violence

SPORTS

Lifetime ban a possible penalty after 'historic' policy unveiled

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Canadian Football League employees could face up to a lifetime ban from the league if they are found to perpetrate violence against women, according a new league policy unveiled Thursday.

The CFL and the Ending Violence Association (EVA) of Canada worked together for about a year to develop the policy, which is "aimed at eradicating violence against women" and providing assistance to victims, according to a statement from the league.

Tracy Porteous, executive director for EVA British Columbia and the EVA Canada chairwoman, called it "historic" and a "bold step."

"Never before have we seen a national organization step up to say violence against women is an epidemic that we're going to do something about — that corporations and businesses and men have a big role in ending violence," she said Thursday at BC Place Stadium.

Cases of domestic violence involving NFL players — specifically Ray Rice and Greg Hardy — have dominated headlines over the past several months.

Rice was eventually released by the Baltimore Ravens after the running back was caught on surveillance video punching his then-fiancée Janay Palmer.

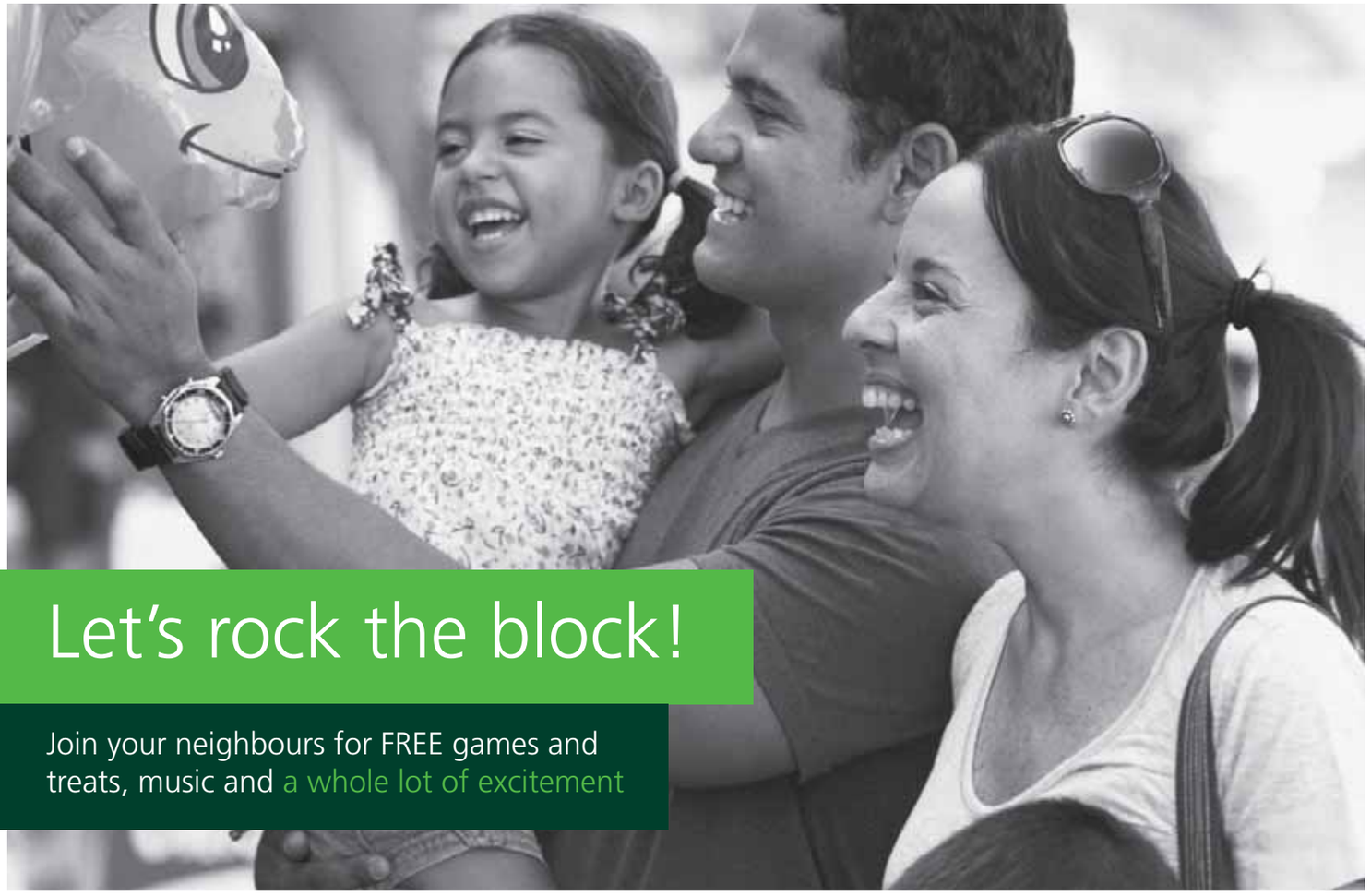
"I think the Ray Rice situation was a galvanizing moment for the world and certainly across North America," said Porteous. "Violence against women happens in every business sector, in every culture; it happens in every community. The perpetration of violence doesn't really have much to do with football but the solution has a lot to do with where there is a lot of men. What's been missing from the equation is men speaking up."

The CFL's policy applies not only to players but to every employee within the league, and employees will receive mandatory training on the issues of violence against women on an annual basis.

"The Canadian Football League condemns violence against women in all its forms," said commissioner Jeffrey Orridge during a press conference.

Confirmed cases of violence toward women will result in sanctions ranging from fines to suspensions, including single- and multiple-game suspensions, to a lifetime ban depending on the severity of the case and number of incidences, according to the policy.

"This was not a response to a particular incident in the league," said Orridge. "This is a societal issue."



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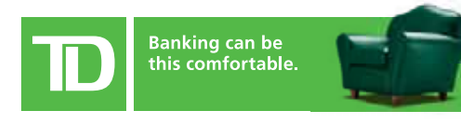

[1] No purchase necessary. Contest ends at 5:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time ("PT") on Saturday, August 29th, 2015. Contest open to Canadian residents who are at least the age of majority at the time of entry. Limit of one (1) entry per person. There is one (1) prize available to be won - consisting of one bike valued at approximately $600 Canadian dollars (ARV CDN$600.00). Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Correct answer to mathematical skill testing question required. See Contest Rules at the TD River District Block Party or at the TD Canada Trust Branch, 3325 North Arm Ave, Vancouver, BC. ® The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

metro NEWS

Goodbye, viaducts: Planners discuss what happens next

TRANSPORTATION

Questions rise over costs and road networks

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Wrecking balls are in the future for Vancouver's Georgia and Dunsmuir viaducts if city planners get their way and secure council's approval in September — and they seem to have tentative support from the public.

Planners outlined their arguments for tearing down the elevated roadways leading to the downtown core at an SFU City Conversations public meeting on Thursday, where a standing room only crowd applauded plans to demolish the 44-year-old concrete structures.

The city's logic is that the viaducts are more expensive to maintain than at-grade roadways, create a physical and psychological barrier between East Van neighbourhoods and False Creek, and could collapse in even a moderate earthquake, downtown planner Holly Sovdi said.

Vancouver councillors will vote on the future of the viaducts in September. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

> **There's a lot of work to do in terms of land exchange. We're just not there yet.**
> Holly Sovdi, downtown planner

But the support, albeit from a skewed sample of people who are tapped in to civic issues and can attend daytime meetings, wasn't unconditional.

Treating the teardown like a foregone conclusion, attendees turned their attention — and worries — to details about costs, future road networks and what will happen once all that land is freed up.

Planners didn't have a lot of answers. They haven't done much detailed planning, Sovdi said, because they don't yet have council's official approval and don't want to get too far ahead of themselves.

Planners could not answer how much the project will cost or exactly who will get the land that's freed up by the removal. Concord Pacific, the Aquilinis, PavCo and the city are all landowners in the area and could stand to gain a windfall in the form of space to develop parks, housing or commercial space.

"There's a lot of work to do in terms of land exchange. We're just not there yet," Sovdi said.

The planners do, however, believe an at-grade road network can absorb the vehicles that currently use the viaducts.

The new route will take drivers an additional one to three minutes, planner Devan Fitch said.

The extra time and the addition of safe bike routes and walking paths could encourage people to hop out of their cars altogether, he said.

Former city planner Brent Toderian spoke at the meeting and lauded Vancouver for following the direction of cities such as Madrid, Portland and San Francisco, which all experienced revived public spaces after tearing down freeways.

But he cautioned the city about replacing the vertical barriers with a too-wide roadway or excessive high-rise development.

"I'm concerned about replacing a wall of viaducts with a wall of towers," he said.

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TransLink chief financial officer Cathy McLay speaks at a press conference in Vancouver on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Compass cards set to roll out this fall

TRANSIT

Delays kept the electronic fare cards from riders' pockets

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

TransLink will finally roll out its Compass electronic fare card system-wide this fall, the transit authority has announced.

The long-delayed system has been in testing since 2013, but problems with the technology have limited the electronic fare cards from being made widely available to the general public.

To date, seniors, TransLink employees, post-secondary students and West Coast Express users have been using the cards in a series of phased tests.

But that will change soon.

TransLink says Compass vending machines will be installed at SkyTrain stations and SeaBus terminals starting this month and that the cards will be available at retail outlets and customer services centres by November.

The introduction of the electronic fare cards coincide with a significant change to TransLink's fare structure.

Zones on all bus trips are being eliminated on a temporary basis. Starting Oct. 5, all bus trips taken in the region will be at the standard one-zone fare regardless of route and distance travelled.

> **We've always said we'd do a phased rollout and we'd learn as we go.**
> Cathy McLay

In addition, bus riders will not be required to physically tap out their Compass cards when they get off the bus.

Tap out speeds and reliability on buses has often been cited as the main reason for delaying the Compass system.

But TransLink chief financial officer Cathy McLay, who takes over as acting CEO next week until a permanent one is hired, said the service is now operating as intended.

She denied there are any ongoing technical concerns behind TransLink's U-turn on tapping off or its revamped fare structure.

The existing one-, two- and three-zone fare rules and rates will remain in effect on the West Coast Express, SeaBus, and SkyTrain and customers will still have to tap off on those systems with the Compass cards.

The temporary bus fare policy will remain in place as TransLink figures out a new long-term fare structure.

WORKPLACE SAFETY

$2M invested to stop health-care assaults

Health Minister Terry Lake at a news conference. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A series of violent attacks on health-care workers has prompted the provincial government and B.C. Nurses' Union to invest $2 million for safety improvements at four high-risk hospitals.

Health Minister Terry Lake and union president Gayle Duteil announced Thursday that the province and union will each contribute $1 million as the first part of a long-term plan that aims to tackle the chronic problem of occupational violence against nurses and other health-care providers.

"We know that violence in the health-care workplace is a real challenge faced by many dedicated health-care workers on a daily basis," Lake told reporters. "We can't accept that this violence is inevitable or acceptable, nor should we accept that there's nothing we can do about it."

The four sites to receive funding are Abbotsford Regional Hospital, Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in Port Coquitlam, Hillside Centre in Kamloops, and Seven Oaks Tertiary Mental Health in Victoria.

Depending on the site, upgrades will include increased staffing levels, improved mental-health education and training, a new distress button and communication systems.

"The fact is that for far too long, the risk of violence to nurses has simply been seen as part of the work that nurses do, part of the job," she said. "The problem is, this acceptance means we don't do everything in our power to minimize the risk, and that's just what we have to do."

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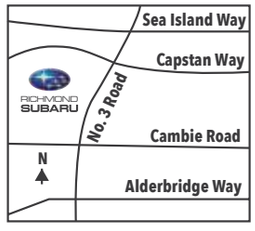

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No sign of new karma-geddon

SOCIAL MEDIA

No uproar over public yoga since Om The Bridge debacle

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

When it comes to yoga, avoiding controversy seems as easy as namastaying away from the Burrard Bridge and politicians.

Free yoga events in public spaces across Vancouver this summer haven't attracted any noticeable criticism, despite the uproar in June over Premier Christy Clark's plan to shut the bridge for a massive yoga class, sponsored by Lululemon and Altagas.

It was a public-relations debacle. The clothing giant reneged before the event was ultimately cancelled due to a public outcry over road closures, costs, sponsorship from an energy company and conflicts with National Aboriginal Day.

Metro failed to find any negative commentary on social media about free yoga events in public spaces. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

Contrast that with Lululemon's plan to host a free session on Kits Beach for as many as 1,000 people on Friday. (Environmental critics that lambasted Altagas' participation in Om The Bridge should note that Lululemon will accept donations to the David Suzuki Foundation.) Attempts to find any sort of negative commentary on social media were unsuccessful.

The same non-reaction has applied to dozens of free yoga classes in parks and plazas across the city. Apparently Vancouverites have taken a breath, chilled out and are now happy to share their public spaces.

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HUDSON'S BAY

El Bronx brings mariachi to festival

SQUAMISH VALLEY

Traditional Mexican music, clothes meets punk

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Punk and mariachi might seem worlds apart, but for Mariachi El Bronx singer Matt Caughthran, taking on his role as frontman for the Mexican-infused alter ego of punk band The Bronx was as simple as trading his electric guitar for an acoustic — and donning a charro suit, of course.

For Caughthran, buttoning up the traditional Mexican black wool mariachi suit gives him the same rush as raging on stage as his punk persona for The Bronx.

"You feel like you could, you know, destroy or smash anything that anyone is going to put in front of you," he said on the phone from his home in Los Angeles, where he was strumming on a guitar while enjoying a much-needed tour break.

"In that same way, the suit gives that feeling to El Bronx."

With three albums in the bag and a growing fan following, The Bronx's moonlighting gig as a mariachi act is arguably surpassing the success of its original punk self.

Singer Matt Caughthran, of Mariachi El Bronx, performs during the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., in April 2011. CHARLEY GALLAY/GETTY IMAGES

> **You feel like you could, you know, destroy or smash anything that anyone is going to put in front of you.**
> Matt Caughthran, singer

It all started with an offer for the Bronx to perform an acoustic set.

The band hired some mariachi instrumentalists from around L.A. and decided to transform one of their only slow songs into a mariachi tune.

"It ended up being super fun and inspiring," Caughthran said.

"We were trying to write for a Bronx record at that time, and we just decided to keep going with the mariachi stuff. It felt good. It felt fresh and exciting."

That feeling is exactly how he hopes fans feel when the band plays Squamish Valley Music Festival. Mariachi El Bronx's stage shows are known to be raucous, and Friday's concert is sure to be no different, he said.

"It's going to be f----- awesome," he said. "I wish we had some sort of giant dragon that we had with us that could blow pot smoke all over everybody. But we don't. It's just us in our suits."

Just don't expect to see sombreros to top off those charro suits, Caughthran added.

"We thought the sombreros were a little cheesy," he said with a laugh. "It just felt wrong, so we didn't do it."

BACKSTAGE PASS

Beautiful, Burnaby, back-to-school blues

Graeme McRanor
For Metro | Vancouver

Don't let the back-to-school sales fool you — there's still plenty of summer festival fun to be had in the Lower Mainland and beyond.

To wit: the 16th annual Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival, which goes down on Saturday at Deer Lake Park in Burnaby.

Headliners include The Sheepdogs, Lee Fields & The Expressions and Ruthie Foster.

And let's not forget Nathan & The Zydeco Cha-Chas, Eagle Rock Gospel Singers, The Devin Cuddy Band, Jim Byrnes & The Sojourners, Terra Lightfoot, Sibel Thrasher, Harpdog Brown, Jesse Roper and Colleen Rennison.

Ewan Currie of the Sheepdogs plays Live at Squamish in 2012. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

The family-friendly action starts at 1 p.m. (gate at noon). Tickets are $60 in advance (4-pack $200); $75 for a single at the gate. More information at BurnabyBluesFestival.com.

They're here, and they're queer

The 11-day Vancouver Queer Film Festival starts next week and runs until Aug. 23 at various theatres around town.

One might say its 2015 slate is diverse: it features more than 70 films from 21 countries, with themes ranging from transgender trailblazers to queer con artists. Check out what's on tap at QueerFilmFestival.ca.

Ya, KOOZA

The super-bendy folks from Cirque du Soleil are coming back to Vancouver.

This time, the company returns with its familiar yellow-and-blue grand chapiteau and its zany and acrobatic KOOZA.

The show starts Oct. 29.

Tickets are on sale now at CirqueduSoleil.com.

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Fentanyl overdose death toll spikes

CRIME

Imported drugs linked to accidental deaths, gangs

The powerful opioid fentanyl, recently linked to an outbreak of overdose deaths in Western Canada, appears to be flowing along a well-worn drug trafficking route, killing some of its users in the same way tainted ecstasy did before.

Authorities theorize the potent painkiller is being imported from Asia to the West Coast, then moved to the black market in B.C. and Alberta by organized crime groups.

Policing has largely centred around public warnings and education campaigns to prevent overdoses, while investigations are at such an early stage that officers haven't yet uncovered any pill manufacturing operations.

It's a pattern reminiscent of early 2012, when investigators were probing the source of batches of ecstasy mixed with an unknown lethal additive as deaths stacked up.

"I think there is something of a trade route, and it's one we saw in place at the time of ecstasy-lacing," said Simon Fraser University criminologist Rob Gordon.

Over the past two weeks, police in Metro Vancouver have linked four overdose deaths to fentanyl.

Authorities and health officials say that many using the drug don't know what they're taking.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pills are shown in a handout photo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ENERGY

Public opinion on proposed B.C. pipelines split: Poll

A new poll suggests British Columbians are still split when it comes to support for the proposed Northern Gateway and Trans Mountain pipelines.

According to the latest Insights West poll released Thursday, 52 per cent of respondents are opposed to Enbridge's Northern Gateway project.

However, 46 per cent say they're opposed to Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion.

Support is at 41 per cent for Northern Gateway and at 42 per cent for Trans Mountain.

Since Insights West last polled British Columbians for their thoughts on Northern Gateway in June 2014, both support and opposition to the project have increased by three points.

Support for Trans Mountain has remained the same, but opposition fell by three points since Insights West's last poll on that project in May 2014.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

KEEPING TABS

British Columbia residents staying informed

Most British Columbians are keeping tabs on both megaprojects.

Seventy per cent said they are "very familiar" or "somewhat familiar" with Northern Gateway.

The number jumps to 75 per cent for the Trans Mountain expansion, which is currently undergoing review at the National Energy Board.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

IN BRIEF

English tutor arrested for sexual interference

Vancouver police have arrested a 71-year-old man who allegedly touched a young student sexually.

Police say the man was working as an English tutor in 2013 when he allegedly touched a 12-year-old girl in an inappropriate manner. Christopher Jon Adams faces one count of sexual interference. Investigators say Adams has lived and worked in Ontario and British Columbia, and was advertising his tutoring services online and in Asian newspapers.

Police believe there may be additional victims and are asking anyone with information to contact them. METRO

Arrest made in Abbotsford pellet gun attacks

Abbotsford police have arrested a 21-year-old man in connection with a series of pellet gun attacks in the city.

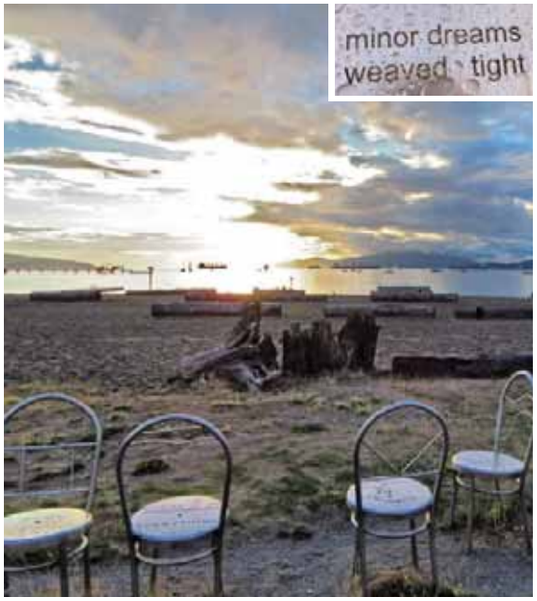
There were at least 15 pellet gun attacks reported in Abbotsford between July 18 and July 27 involving a suspect shooting people and property from a passing vehicle.

Police released photos of the suspect's vehicle last week and were able to identify and arrest a suspect in the spree. Investigators are still looking for a second suspect.

METRO

URBAN ESCAPES PUBLIC ART OF THE BIENNALE

Follow the curve of the Vancouver Seawall and you're likely to come across a public sculpture. The Vancouver Biennale, a non-profit, charitable organization, has various pieces of public art scattered throughout the city, engaging community and inspiring viewers in unexpected ways. **Amy Logan** FOR METRO



Echoes by Michel Goulet

F Grass by Ai weiwei.

INTERACTIVE INTROSPECTION

The city has become an open air museum, a place of inspiration and social action. From Ai Weiwei's spiky, cast iron grass rusting against a sublime mountain backdrop, to Cosmo Cavallaro's playful jellybean sculptures reflecting the city's sheen, this art encourages a sort of interactive introspection. The 2014-2016 Biennale's theme is Open Borders/Crossroads, with Vancouver acting as an international hub for transformative thinking.

Info: Vancouverbiennale.com

Love Your Beans Cosimo Cavallo.

Human Structures Vancouver Jonathon Borofsky.

Home by the Sea by Luis Fernando Palaez.

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Mulcair loses debate

ELECTION 2015

NDP boss disappoints as federal leaders face off

Steve Rennie
Metro | Ottawa

There were no knockout blows, no "You had an option, sir!" moments.

The first — and perhaps only — debate of this marathon federal election campaign to feature all of the major party leaders may not have had a clear winner, but arguably Tom Mulcair came out as the weakest performer when the NDP leader needed a strong performance the most.

And that left the real debate, at least in the early stages, between Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

Here's my view of who owned each of the issues that arose over the course of the two-hour televised debate.

The Economy

Who excelled: Trudeau

Why: He went on the attack early and had Harper on his heels. He made the debate about him and Harper, while excluding Mulcair.

The Environment and Energy

Who excelled: Debate moderator Paul Wells of Maclean's

Why: He put Harper on his heels better than any of the party leaders by pointing out that the prime minister has been promising emissions regulations since 2008.

Democracy

Who excelled: A toss-up between Trudeau and Mulcair

Why: Trudeau scored when he responded "nine... nine Supreme Court justices" when asked by Mulcair what his acceptable per cent would be for a Yes side win in a referendum on Quebec's sovereignty. Mulcair was strong in going after Harper on the Senate.

Foreign Policy and Security

Who excelled: Harper

Why: He kept the focus on ISIL — and managed to pivot away from talk of veterans, where he was vulnerable — in a subject area he probably relished talking about nearly as much as the economy.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, Green party Leader Elizabeth May and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair listen as Conservative Leader Stephen Harper speaks during the first federal leaders debate on Thursday in Toronto. POOL/FRANK GUNN/GETTY IMAGES

Stephen Harper: B+

He took a number of body blows but stayed on his feet. He benefited from the final round being on security and foreign affairs.

Justin Trudeau: A-

He succeeded early on in making the debate between him and Harper. He had a strong first round. Probably exceeded expectations.

Tom Mulcair: B

He looked uncomfortable and a bit wooden at times and found himself on the outside looking in as Trudeau and Harper scrapped early on.

Elizabeth May: A

It's an easy A to give out. May went into the debate with little to lose. She was likeable and articulate. Came across as the conscience of the debate.

Each leader went into the debate with a specific objective. Harper had to convince voters that his Conservatives are the only political party that can keep the economy on track and keep Canadians safe from whatever threats might be out there.

Mulcair had to introduce himself to Canadians and come off as the prime minister-in-waiting. He had to convince voters — some of whom might never have dreamed of voting for the NDP — that his party is the only one that has a shot at ousting the Conservatives from power.

Trudeau has to show people that he is not the lightweight that the Conservatives and NDP have made him out to be. He had to appear as different from Harper and Mulcair as he possibly could — a cheerful, optimistic antithesis to their rough-and-tumble politics.

Elizabeth May had to convince people that a vote for the Greens is not a wasted vote and that her party could wind up holding the balance of power in a minority government.

> **"The way you deal with this is by sticking with a plan that is working."**
> Stephen Harper

> **"Honestly, Mr. Harper's plan simply isn't working. We know that."**
> Thomas Mulcair

> **"The only risk right now would be sticking with what has been a failed plan."**
> Justin Trudeau

> **"I don't really think he's got a good track record on spotting when this country is in recession."**
> Elizabeth May

Go online for election news metronews.ca

AMERICA VOTES

Trump the main attraction at first Republican clash

The Republicans set in motion a key ritual of the American political process Thursday, with billionaire businessman Donald Trump using the opening moments of the party's first debate of the 2016 presidential campaign to refuse to rule out running as an independent.

At centre stage, the Republican frontrunner was the only one of 10 candidates to raise his hand when the Fox News hosts asked if anyone onstage would not pledge to support the eventual party nominee.

"I will not make the pledge at this time," Trump said.

That enraged Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who said Trump was "already hedging his bets because he's used to buying politicians."

Trump had already loomed over the events Thursday night. During an earlier event for candidates relegated to a discussion outside of prime time, Trump took shots for his past positions in favour of universal health care and abortion rights.

Trump remains a long-shot candidate to replace President Barack Obama, but the brash real-estate mogul and reality-television star took centre stage in Cleveland, Ohio, as top performer in several recent national polls. Only 10 candidates were invited to participate in the main event, with the remaining seven relegated to a pre-debate forum.

It's a key test for Trump, whose unpredictable style and unformed policy positions mean he doesn't fit neatly into any single wing of the Republican Party.

That appears to be a draw to some Republicans frustrated with Washington and career politicians, but others fear his eccentricities and outlandish comments — whether about Mexican immigrants being "criminals" and "rapists" or his questioning of the war record of Sen. John McCain — will taint the American public's view of the party.

As in the 2012 Republican primaries, the party faces a tug-of-war between those eager for a candidate with broad general election appeal and those who think the key to winning is nominating a fiery conservative.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump looks at Jeb Bush, right, as Scott Walker watches during the first Republican presidential debate at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland on Thursday. ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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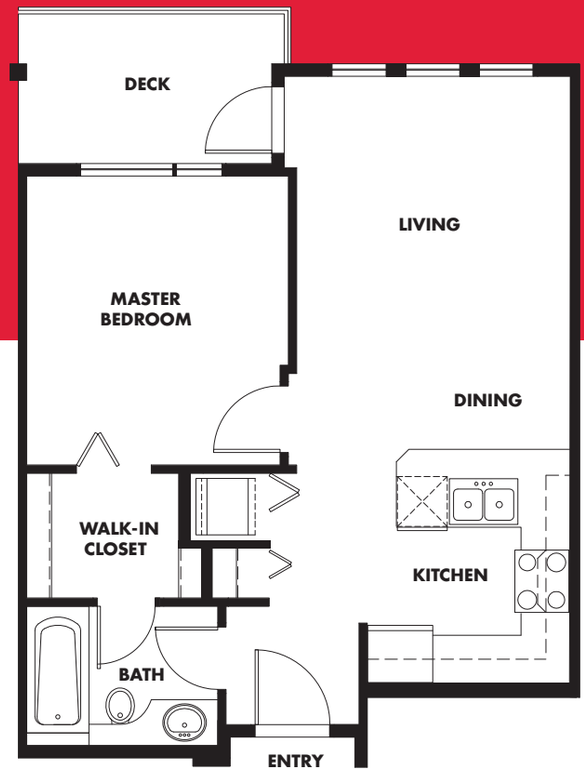

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CHRIS HYNDMAN

Sleepwalking deaths rare, experts say

Chris Hyndman, right, with Steven Sabados RYAN EMBERLEY/ THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

A mother's suggestion that her son, TV personality Chris Hyndman, plunged to his death while sleepwalking has shone a light on the dangers associated with the disorder.

Glenda Hyndman told the Toronto Star that she believed her son fell to his death while sleepwalking on the terrace of the Toronto home he shared with his husband and professional partner Steven Sabados.

Sleep researchers say there have been documented cases in which sleepwalkers engage in very complex activities and wind up inflicting harm on themselves or others. However, they say those cases make up the extreme minority of the situations they encounter.

Hyndman, co-star of CBC fashion and design show Steven and Chris, was found lying in an alleyway outside his home late Monday evening. Police have suggested that there is no criminal investigation underway.

Colleen Carney, director of the Sleep and Depression Laboratory at Ryerson University, said Hyndman's death would be a rarity if it was caused by a sleepwalking accident.

"Injuries during sleepwalking tend to be mild, but there's tremendous variability in sleepwalking and also the severity of it," Carney said.

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Alberta Premier Rachel Notley fields questions at the summer meeting of Canada's premiers in St. John's in July.
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Notley hits back at PM

POLITICS

Harper called NDP move to increase taxes 'a disaster'

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley spoke Thursday directly in response to Stephen Harper's assertion earlier in the week that her government's tax policy has already been an "absolute disaster," but she didn't mention the Conservative leader by name.

"I completely reject the Conservative campaign's comments about the decisions of the people of Alberta that they made last spring," Notley told reporters Thursday morning.

"Whether their federal cousins like it or not, the people of Alberta decided they'd had enough of the Conservative government in this province and they decided to elect a new government."

The premier said her government was simply following through on a campaign promise when it scrapped the "unfair health levy" proposed by the Progressive Conservatives prior to the May election and instead increased the provincial corporate tax rate and the personal income tax rates of people earning $125,000 or more.

> **"The people of Alberta made their choice."**
> Premier Rachel Notley

Presented with differing policy options during the election campaign, Notley said, "the people of Alberta made their choice."

"So we're going to keep working to deliver on the commitments that we made to the people of Alberta," the premier said.

At a campaign stop on Monday, Harper criticized Notley's decision to delay a provincial budget until October while still acting to boost the corporate tax rate to 12 per cent from its previous level of 10 per cent.

The NDP is also replacing Alberta's flat income tax structure for individuals with a progressive structure that sees rates begin to rise on annual incomes of $125,000 or more.

"The new NDP government — they can't present a budget, but what was the first thing they did? They raised taxes, and that's a disaster, an absolute disaster," Harper said.

Notley said Thursday it's "normal" to have a tax system "that asks those who've done the best to contribute a little bit more."

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PM291	2015 MINI Countryman S ALL4	Midnight Grey	4,490	$39,749	$37,888
PM293	2015 MINI Countryman S ALL4	Light White	6,101	$37,950	$35,888
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Flight 370 families fed up with probe's mixed messages

MALAYSIA AIRLINES

Australia, France unable to confirm wing flap origin

The Malaysian government was certain: The airplane part found on an Indian Ocean island came from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. Investigators in France weren't so sure quite yet.

And those differing approaches created confusion and anguish Thursday for the families of those aboard the ill-fated flight.

"From our first observation, the colour tone and all maintenance records that we have, we know," Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said. "Our records show that it's the same as MH370."

He added that there are "many other technical details that I do not have to reveal" that confirm the part is from Flight 370.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak announced early Thursday that the piece of debris, known as a flaperon, came from the doomed aircraft, but authorities in France, the U.S. and Australia have stopped short of full confirmation.

The dissonant comments infuriated many relatives of the 239 people on board the plane, who have waited more than 500 days for concrete clues into the fate of their loved ones. Dai Shuqin, the sister of a passenger, was among about a dozen Chinese relatives who held a demonstration outside Malaysia Airlines' offices in Beijing.

"France is being cautious about it, but Malaysia is desperate to put an end to this case and run away from all responsibilities," she said.

Liow said differences with other countries amounted to "a choice of words."

He also said more debris has been found on Reunion Island and was sent to local authorities for French investigators to examine. However, the Paris prosecutor's office, which is spearheading a French legal inquiry into the crash, denied that investigators had any new debris, and multiple French officials involved in the investigation in Reunion and in Paris said they also were unaware of a new discovery.

The officials requested anonymity, because they did not want to appear critical of the Malaysian investigation, but those contradictory statements about new debris threw more confusion over an investigation that has often seemed inconsistent, to the dismay of families of those lost.

"Why the hell do you have one confirm and one not?" said Sara Weeks, the sister of New Zealander Paul Weeks, who was on board. "Why not wait and get everybody on the same page so the families don't need to go through this turmoil?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai speaks during a news conference on the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SECOND WORLD WAR

70 years since Hiroshima

Japan marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Thursday, with Mayor Kazumi Matsui renewing calls for U.S. President Barack Obama and other world leaders to step up efforts toward making a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Tens of thousands of people stood for a minute of silence at 8:15 a.m. at a ceremony in Hiroshima's peace park near the epicentre of the 1945 attack, marking the moment of the blast. Then dozens of doves were released as a symbol of peace.

The U.S. bomb, "Little Boy," the first nuclear weapon used in war, killed 140,000 people. A second bomb, "Fat Man," dropped over Nagasaki three days later, killed another 70,000, prompting Japan's surrender in World War II.

The U.S. dropped the bombs to avoid what would have been a bloody ground assault on the Japanese mainland, following the fierce battle for Japan's southernmost Okinawan islands, which took 12,520 American lives and an estimated 200,000 Japanese, about half civilians.

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2006 FORD CROWN VICTORIA	$4,888	#5600
2005 GMC SIERRA SLE CREW 4WD	$7,888	#6474
2007 NISSAN SENTRA	$6,888	#4707
2004 FORD EXPLORER	$7,595	#6509
2013 DODGE JOURNEY RT AWD	$19,995	#57743
2006 PONTIAC G6	$5,995	#1628
2006 CHEVROLET COBALT SS	$6,995	#5743
2011 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE AWD	$18,995	#5754

2003 BMW 320

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Wireless subscribers boost BCE's profits

Changes in the rules for wireless contracts gave BCE Inc. an extra bump in new subscribers and helped raise profits by 25 per cent in the second quarter.

The Montreal-based telecommunications company said Thursday that net income was $759 million or 90 cents per share, compared to $606 million or 78 cents a year ago.

The big increase was attributed to a number of other factors as well, including taking full ownership of Bell Aliant last year and gains from the sale of a 50 per cent interest in the Glentel retail business to Rogers Communications. But it was the addition of 61,000 net postpaid subscribers in the period that stood out as a victory against one of its biggest competitors, Rogers Communications, which managed to deliver just over a third of that growth, or 24,000 customers, in the same period.

Both carriers have been in fierce competition, along with Telus, to retain their wireless customers after the CRTC issued rule changes that eliminate cancellation fees for wireless contracts after two years. Last year, BCE spent $64 million more on retention costs — like subsidized phones or discounted packages — to keep customers from straying to its competitors.

In its Internet division, Bell added 18,600 net subscribers and 50,000 customers to its IPTV (Bell Fibe) television service. It lost nearly 34,000 subscribers to its satellite TV service.

At the company's media operations, which include TV channels like CTV and TSN, revenues dropped 2.8 per cent to $740 million, as advertising revenues were impacted by both the loss of the broadcast rights to the NHL playoffs and heightened competition from large social media companies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business owner Katherina Athanasopoulou, posing at the entrance of her workshop in central Athens on Thursday, says export orders to Germany have been cancelled because of payment disruptions caused by capital controls in Greece.

YORGOS KARAHALIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deal likely: Creditors

GREECE

Bank stocks recover after disastrous three days

Greece's talks with its creditors on a vital third bailout are making "satisfactory progress," the European Union executive said Thursday in its most upbeat assessment so far, as Athens stocks rebounded three days after their worst plunge in decades.

A European Commission spokeswoman, Mina Andreeva, said the lenders are hoping to finalize the 85-billion euro ($92.5 billion US) agreement in time for a major Greek debt repayment in two weeks.

"We believe this is an ambitious yet possible timetable," she said. "Our teams (have been) on the ground (for) almost two weeks, and they report satisfactory progress."

The radical left government on Wednesday said Athens was hoping to avoid extending negotiations and having to seek an interim loan to cover the Aug. 20 payment, worth more than 3 billion euros ($3.27 billion US) to the European Central Bank.

The terms of the new loan are being worked out in Athens in talks between government officials and lead negotiators from the European Commission, ECB and International Monetary Fund.

The Athens stock exchange gained 3.65 per cent Thursday, three days after its disastrous opening — when a sixth of listed companies' value went up in smoke — following a forced five-week closure. Banks, which saw huge losses over the past three days, gained a collective 18 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Israel buying locomotives from Bombardier

Bombardier has won a contract from Israel Railways for 62 electric locomotives valued at $260 million US, the railway said Thursday. It was selected over several international rivals including Alstom and Chinese bidders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 76.29¢ (+0.46¢)

TSX 14,405.91 (-97.08)

OIL $44.66 US (-49¢)

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NATURAL GAS: $2.813 US (+1.5¢)
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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, August 7-9, 2015

THE KOHLER REPORT: ON — OH, THERE'S AN ELECTION?

Imagine the NDP wins?! All roads will be replaced by giant, tulip-lined bike lanes

You know how dreams are weird and hard to explain to other people? How when you say to someone, "You were there, but you weren't you. You were a hobbit, and we were having root-beer floats with Gandalf," they start to slowly back away?

Well, the other day I was talking about Canadian politics and I noticed it sounded an awful lot like I was describing a dream. I realized that I had only tidbits of information that I'd gleaned from Facebook, radio, headlines (which I don't click on) and maybe my dad.

Am I alone here?

The scary thing is, I know some of my friends consider me "informed." Let's compromise and say I'm your average Canadian. Please read on to find out the average Canadian's take on #CanPoli.

Harper and his "people" recently passed a bill called C-51; it's a bill that means if I say bad things about the government, I can be arrested. I think it might be racist, too, but I'm not sure. People were really angry about the bill on Facebook, almost as angry as they were about Cecil the lion. Justin Trudeau was in favour of the evil bill but Thomas Mulcair, leader of the NDP (see, I'm informed), opposed it and that made him a bearded hero.

Now there's an election starting and I hear it's going to be long and expensive, like a wedding weekend for a friend you don't really care about. But what's really crazy is that Mulcair is leading in the polls.

I may not know a lot but I know that the idea of a Canada led by the NDP is up there with pigs flying in a frozen hell. Oddly, even though it's Mulcair who Harper should be most concerned about, the only attack ads I've heard have been aimed at "Justin" and how he's a pot-smoking teenager with great hair who still needs to go through puberty. Did you know that Trudeau's dad was a famous Prime Minister? His name was Pierre and it's kind of a God/Jesus thing — if Jesus had turned out to be a disappointment.

Harper also put an ad online about how he's against the Netflix tax. The ad felt like something you'd see during a high-school election for co-prez but with lower production value (I was disappointed he didn't promise free fruit punch in the caf at lunchtime).

I'm not sure when we actually vote, but I'll find out when I get that election card in my mailbox. I'll vote NDP because I think I agree mostly with their policies (Netflix tax aside). Imagine the NDP wins?! All roads will be replaced by giant, tulip-lined bike lanes. Everyone will get a free live-in nanny. Prescription drugs will be included in our health care and gay pride will be made a national holiday!

Then the country will declare bankruptcy.

Maybe Canadian politics are less a dream, more an acid trip? Either way, I hope you all learned something here today!

Take that, Chantal Hébert.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler.

Happy face/Sad face

From **generous brides** to **egregious grooms,**
Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Mill-Drake beef a cash cow for biz?

Companies have taken it u-pun themselves to milk the beef between Meek Mill and Drake. Burger King tweeted a pic of their Whopper with "All these burgers and they still got beef." Texas' Whataburger wrote "Meek Mill, take it from us — if you gonna serve beef, serve it high quality." Even Rosetta Stone jabbed, "We might not be able to translate the latest #MeekMill soundtrack, but we can help you learn languages most ppl speak." The corporate consensus seemed to be that Meek was weak and their responses were well done.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In sickness and in health of 4,000 refugees

Oh, weddings. All that fretting about the guest list. Do you invite coworkers? Parents' friends? 4,000 Syrian refugees? If you're Turkish couple Fethullah Üzümcüoğlu and Esra Polat, you do just that. The pair opted on their wedding day to put the money toward feeding refugees in the nearby border town of Kilis, which hosts 123,000 Syrians. The charity Kimse Yok Mu tweeted photos of the couple in full bridal outfits helping to serve up meals. SOURCE: THE DAILY BEAST

#ilooklikean engineer – duh

It started with a woman on a San Francisco recruitment ad talking about her job. Much reaction followed, the reasons for which are confusing to normal humans. Isis Wenger is a female, an engineer and attractive — a combo that proved suspicious for some. Anyway, negative comments inspired a viral hashtag (naturally) with thousands of women tweeting their photos with their engineering roles. IWenger said she hoped to help eliminate "subconscious bias" in tech.

SOURCE: TECHCRUNCH

Honeymoon groom no honey next day

Ladies, let this be a lesson to you: let your partner see you at your worst. Or, you know, without makeup. Alternate lesson: don't agree to marry a jerk. An Algerian groom took his wife to court the day after marrying, seeking $20,000 in damages for "psychological suffering." The crime? He did not recognize her the next morning without her full makeup and claims he was frightened and thought her a thief who came to steal his apartment.

SOURCE: EMIRATES 24/7

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

What you don't know about fentanyl can kill you: It's time to learn

We need to do something about street drugs.

In just the latest death, 17-year-old Jack Bodie died in Vancouver last weekend after snorting fentanyl. The drug is linked to 75 deaths in B.C. in 2014, mostly recreational users, according to the B.C. Coroners Service.

Days later, his dad spoke to CBC Radio.

"I can't say don't do drugs. That's a false start, and we know that from trying to fight the war on drugs," he said. But, he continued, the casual use of fentanyl is seen as no riskier than having a beer.

Fentanyl is unusually deadly, but street drugs in general pose a dilemma for invincible-feeling teens and 20-somethings because getting high feels fantastic and most people don't die from it.

"There's always risk," said a longtime dealer I know, one trusted by his friends to provide a safe high.

He knows his wholesalers well. He tests his drugs to confirm what he's got. He takes marijuana to a special site to test for mould, E. coli and other toxins. It's not a perfect system, but it helps, he said.

"If you don't have that, then you're forced into a dark market that is unregulated, uncontrolled, patrolled by piranhas and devious people."

Some don't care what they sell you and whether it's dangerous.

"Any good chemist can make his pills look like anything these days," the dealer added.

Drug-testing kits are one defence. They could be handed out at walk-in clinics, he suggested, mirroring the harm-reduction tactics of Vancouver's safe-injection site. There could be drug-testing sites at pill-fuelled festivals, equipped with information on drug effects and risks.

Education, he said, is key.

Doctors have said most overdoses at Nova Scotia's Evolve Festival result from a cocktail of drugs, making testing kits a moot point. But what if we knew more about the effects of mixing drugs?

The dealer suggested parents sit down with their kids to explain how street drugs affect the body, for good or ill. And, maybe, that they even offer a safe space to experiment, the way some parents let their teenagers drink booze at home.

B.C. police forces, health authorities and the B.C. Coroners Service agree the public needs the information. They've launched the website knowyoursource.ca. It explains fentanyl, overdoses and how to lower your risk if you decide to use it.

One thing should be very clear to us all by now: what you don't know can kill you. And we know far too little.

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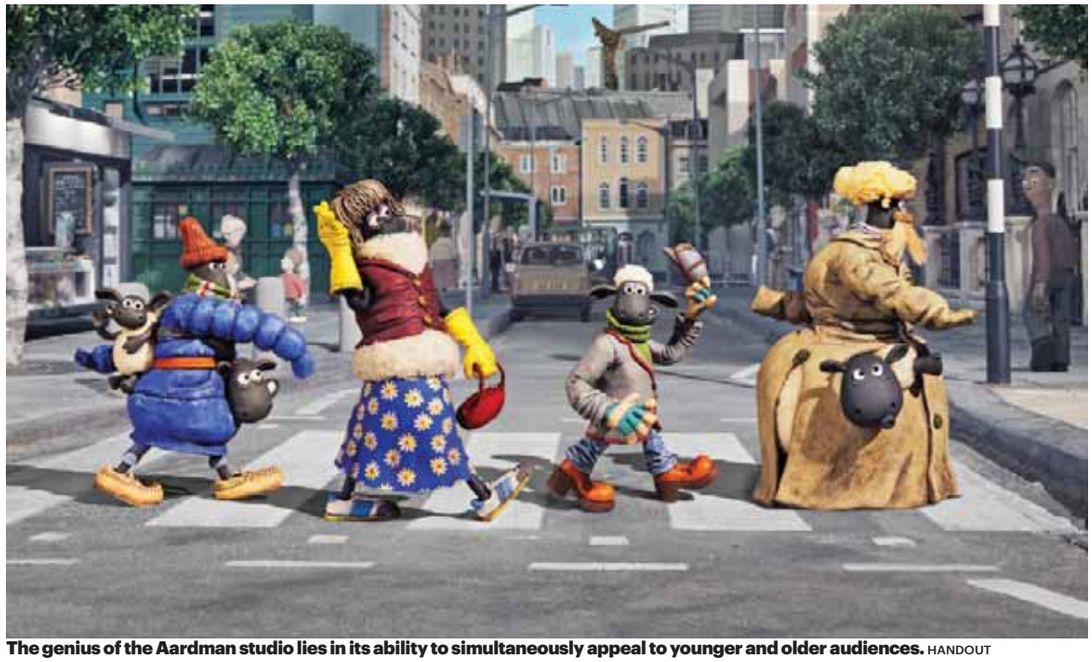
Ooh la la: Christian Louboutin to launch line of lipsticks

Stop-motion studio's fab four

ANIMATION

Shaun the Sheep only latest triumph by Aardman

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse



The genius of the Aardman studio lies in its ability to simultaneously appeal to younger and older audiences. HANDOUT

Kids' movies come in all shapes and sizes. This year there's been the introspection and action adventure of Inside Out, Minions mayhem and Paddington's cuddly cuteness. For something completely different, there's the Shaun the Sheep Movie, a stop-motion animated film with virtually no dialogue but lots of fun.

Shaun is a resourceful, if mischievous, sheep who lives with his flock at Mossy Bottom Farm. When he accidentally sets off a chain of events that sees his Farmer get amnesia and become a successful hairdresser in the big city, Shaun tries to bring him back home. Wallace and Gromit fans may recognize Shaun the Sheep from the 1995 short film A Close Shave or his self-titled television series.

Animation fans will also recognize the unmistakable style of Aardman, the British animation studio responsible for bringing the Plasticine inventor Wallace and his dog Gromit to vivid life one frame at a time. Time called their Claymation promo clip for Peter Gabriel's Sledgehammer one of the greatest music videos ever and their first full length film, 2000's Chicken Run, is the highest-grossing stop-motion film of all time.

The beauty of their work is that while it's generally aimed at kids it tickles funny bones young and old. What's the secret to their success?

"We don't make animated films," says founder Peter Lord. "We make films that happen to be animated."

Here's a look at my favourite Aardman films.

Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

The story takes place days before the annual Giant Vegetable Competition. Wallace and Gromit's pest control company — Anti-Pesto — must do battle with a floppy-eared mutant rabbit who is nibbling on all the oversized vegetables.

The film is loaded with fanciful Rube Goldberg-like contraptions, visual gags, bad puns — the cheese-loving Wallace's bookshelf features titles like East of Edam and Grated Expectations — and double-entendres for the parents in the audience. There is at least one pretty good in-joke in there for film geeks too — a snippet of Art Garfunkel's song Bright Eyes, from the rabbit-themed cartoon Watership Down, is heard on a car stereo. Park also tips his hat to the British love of gardening, King Kong and the Hammer Horror movies.

Pirates! Band of Misfits

It's not every kid's flick that features Queen Victoria, the Elephant Man and Charles Darwin. Pirates! Band of Misfits, however, isn't like most kids' movies. It's splendid side-splitting swashbuckling fun that mixes gentle family friendly humour, with some absurdist Monty Python style gags and Aardman's usual whimsy. There is so much going on here you may want to see this more than once to catch all the sight gags and throwaway lines on offer.

Flushed Away

For the first time ever, Aardman put their clay figures into storage and took a step into the 21st century, making a film that looks a great deal like one of their homemade stop-motion extravaganzas, but is actually computer animated. Flushed Away, the story of an upper class pet mouse flushed down the loo by a bullying rat, features great animation, an all-star British voice cast and something that all kids love — toilet humour.

It swirls along at quite a clip, effortlessly mixing literate verbal and visual jokes — we glimpse a cockroach reading Kafka's Metamorphosis — with potty humour that'll appeal to the kids.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Fantastic Four ★★
Shaun the Sheep Movie ★★★★
The Gift ★★★

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★★★ WORTHWHILE
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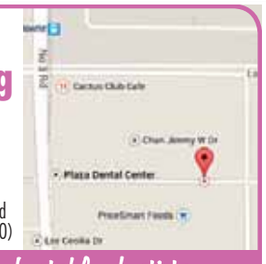

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7 HOLLYWOOD MOVIES TACKLE TROUBLED MINDS

This may be the summer of the mental-illness movie. Sympathetic portrayals of people dealing with mental illnesses help broaden public understanding of these little-discussed conditions and show the challenges sufferers face. Here's a look at recent and forthcoming films dealing with mental illnesses **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

1 Welcome to Me

Kristen Wiig stars as a woman with borderline personality disorder who wins the lottery. She immediately stops taking her medication and pours millions of dollars into producing her own talk show, where she discusses her high-protein diet, re-enacts formative moments from her life and performs amateur veterinary procedures. Tim Robbins co-stars as her psychiatrist. The film is available to rent online.

2 The End of the Tour

Author David Foster Wallace (Jason Segel) is finishing up his promotional tour for Infinite Jest when he agrees to an interview with Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky (Jesse Eisenberg). Lipsky alternately tries to befriend and prod Wallace, who becomes increasingly frustrated and self-conscious. The film is based on Lipsky's book, which was published after Wallace's 2008 death.

3 What Happened, Miss Simone

This biopic shows the life of Nina Simone, from her public persona as a renowned singer, pianist and civil rights activist to her private struggles with abusive behaviour and bipolar disorder. This documentary, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, is available on Netflix.

4 Amy

A look at the talent and career of Amy Winehouse, and how fame and her battle with bulimia, depression and addiction contributed to her death at age 27. The film is in theatres now.

5 Love & Mercy

Focused on two significant periods in the life of The Beach Boys songwriter Brian Wilson. Paul Dano plays the musician in the late 1960s, when he experienced a creative surge and the onset of mental illness. John Cusack plays Wilson later in his life, overmedicated and controlled by a domineering psychiatrist (Paul Giamatti) until he finds love with future wife Melinda Ledbetter (Elizabeth Banks). The film is in theatres now.

6 Infinitely Polar Bear

Writer-director Maya Forbes based this story on her own childhood experiences. Mark Ruffalo plays a bipolar dad hospitalized after a mental breakdown. Upon his release, he's left to care for his two young daughters when his wife (Zoe Saldana) goes away to graduate school. The film is in theatres now.

7 I Smile Back

Sarah Silverman stars as a deeply troubled suburban mother struggling with the destructive effects of an unnamed mental condition. She complains that lithium makes her gain weight, so she self-medicates with cocaine, alcohol and promiscuous sex, endangering the life she loves with her adoring husband and their two kids. The film is scheduled to be released in October.

HOLLYWOOD

Gilded actress Theron inhabits 'dark places' in latest role

Despite being one of the most successful stars in Hollywood, Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron is painfully aware of how rare it is in popular film to come across a fully realized female protagonist that has some edge.

"It's really interesting when you get to play a woman that is layered and conflicted and has certain human attributes that might not be that attractive, which is part of the human condition," she says.

"Somehow, because we haven't seen enough of it in cinema, it kind of sticks out like a soar thumb and people comment on it."

While she's not a fan of the state of female characters in movies, she understands why people are focused on them.

"People are talking about it because there has been such a lack of it," she says.

"I can't say that I'm attracted to angry, dark people. I think what I'm attracted to is characters to me that feel very truthful to the embodiment of a full woman. It's just refreshing to see women like Gillian write women like that. It feels authentic and real."

Some keeping an eye on Theron's career have suggested that she might be drawn to these types of darker roles because of her own rocky history — Theron's mother shot and killed her abusive husband in self-defense in 1991.

But the Oscar-winning actress insists those people are seeing connections where there aren't any. "It's a very easy assumption to make that because I had a very tragic event happen in my life, that that was why I wanted to make this story, and it couldn't be further from the truth.

"There really aren't any similarities. The circumstances of this tragedy has absolutely nothing in common with the tragedy that happened in my life," she says.

"I think that the correlation in this that people can relate to is that we all come from this family structure that we don't get to choose necessarily," Theron says.

"I have yet to meet somebody that doesn't have some form of skeletons in their closet from the family life that they lived."

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Charlize Theron stars in Dark Places. CONTRIBUTED

House music DJ Marc Kinchen a.k.a. DJ MK went from jamming in basements to a major Twitter shout-out from Mercdes Benz for his Look Right Through remix. CONTRIBUTED

House brings DJ MK to life

EDM

After a bunch of dead ends, Mark Kinchen hits a groove

Jesse Ship
For Metro Life

DJ MK was a sleeping giant.

It's safe to say that you're kind of a big deal when Mercedes-Benz is gushing about your songs on Twitter.

"It was totally random. All my friends were texting me about how Mercedes said they love playing my remix of Look Right Through in their vehicles!" laughs globe-trotting house music deejay Marc Kinchen, a.k.a. DJ MK, who started his career as a DJ/producer as a teen in the late '80s.

"Growing up in Detroit, music was really big, I had a band in high school and it seems like everyone was influenced by Prince. Everyone wanted to be in a band, sing and write songs."

Like most kids making music, they jammed in their basements. "It was unorthodox. We didn't know what we were doing. It's not like we spent a lot of time with record producers, but we thought we knew what we were doing. You didn't have to learn a lot back then about technology because there just wasn't that much to work with."

A lot has changed since then. After moving to New York and attaining a cult following in the underground scene MK became a go-to for record labels to remix their pop artists. In 1993, his remix of Celine Dion's Let It Go became a surprise No. 1 Billboard hit in the dance division, but the label still had no idea he even existed.

"I looked up to Quincy Jones at the time and that's where I wanted to be. Outside of the cool kids, house music wasn't getting the respect from the higher-ups in the business."

> **In the '90s where hip hop was the biggest thing, now house music is what that was**
> Mark Kinchen a.k.a. DJ MK

Instead, Kinchen worked his connections and wound up producing for Jay-Z, but the pop world was disillusioning. While he earned the respect he always wanted, the power politics of the industry turned him off. "It became too political. It became all about who you know, and who you can give kickbacks to," he shrugs with an audible "meh!"

That wasn't for him, either.

He then scored a stint in L.A. as Will Smith's in-house producer following his Big Willie Style album, but wound up working on his films instead. Another dead end.

It wasn't until Pitbull sampled his catchy, but ever-so-cheesy horns for Hotel Room Service from one his classic '90s records that he was rediscovered as a House music deejay, and MK was on his way back to the top, rubbing shoulders with the Diplos and Calvin Harrises of the day.

"In the '90s where hip hop was the biggest thing, now house music is what that was." House music is pop music really, he says, and business is booming.

"The roles are totally reversed now. Record label presidents are now calling to get an MK remix. That's what I wanted it to be like in the '90s, but it just wasn't ready yet."

While there are still a few months to go before his first studio album drops, his new single, a summery '90s-tinged anthem Bring Me To Life featuring the 18-year-old vocalist Milly Pye, has just been released.

MK is a regular on the Ibiza club circuit but you can catch him in Toronto on Friday Aug. 7 at The Hoxton as part of their Focus Fridays series.

IN BRIEF

Dr. Dre to donate royalties to Compton arts facility

Dr. Dre says he will donate royalties from his new album to the city of Compton for a new performing arts facility.

In an interview with Zane Lowe on Beats 1 Radio, Dre said he spoke to Compton Mayor Aja Brown about ways to give back to the city with the release of his first album in 16 years. The rapper said Thursday he "decided to donate all of my artist royalties from the sale of this album to help fund a new performing arts and entertainment facility for the kids in Compton."

Compton: A Soundtrack by Dr. Dre, was inspired by the N.W.A. biopic Straight Outta Compton, which opens Aug. 14, will be released Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANIMATED MOVIE

Pop stars to voice fairy-tale heroines

Demi Lovato, Avril Lavigne and Ashley Tisdale lend their voices to animated musical Charming. @AVRILLAVIGNE INSTAGRAM

Avril Lavigne and Ashley Tisdale will join Demi Lovato in voicing fairy-tale heroines for the animated musical comedy Charming.

Lavigne took to Twitter to announce the news, calling the trio "Triple Trouble," while entertainment company 3QU Media confirmed the news on Twitter as well.

Also joining the cast is Chinese pop star G.E.M.

In the film, Lavigne will voice Snow White, Tisdale will play Cinderella and G.E.M. Sleeping Beauty.

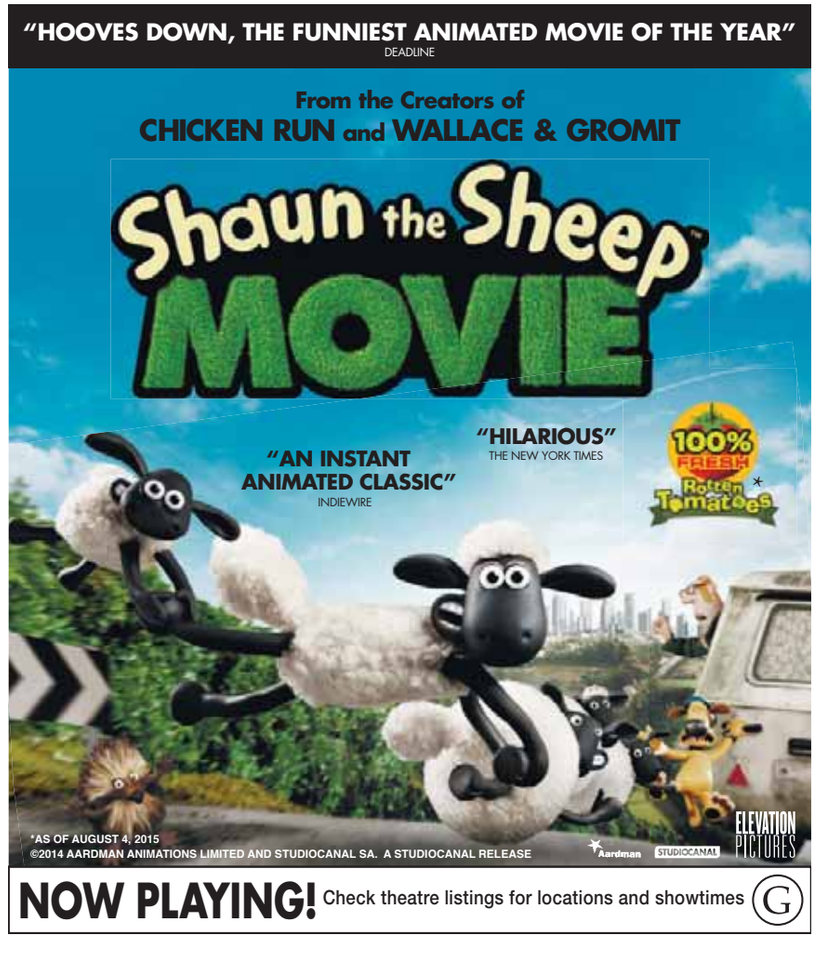
Lovato will play the female lead, Lenore.

The voice of Prince Charming has yet to be revealed.

In the film, a cursed Prince Philip Charming must find his true love before his 21st birthday or risk losing all claim to the throne.

The film is produced by John H. Williams who was behind Shrek, and will be written and directed by Ross Venokur.

Charming is set to be released next spring. AFP



Marvel's first family is struggling

FANTASTIC FOUR

This franchise has had some serious growing pains

While Marvel's X-Men and the Avengers have built their big screen empires into well-oiled billion-dollar franchises, the Fantastic Four have floundered with never-was and the never-should-have-been adaptations.

First there was the Roger Corman-produced film that was killed before it hit theatres in 1994, and then two critically loathed, but decently profitable attempts in the mid-2000s with future Captain America Chris Evans as the Human Torch.

The Fantastic Four are among Marvel's longest-running series and most beloved groups. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, the scientists-turned-superheroes were relatable and wry in their interactions as a team — even when they weren't fighting supervillains.

When it debuted in November 1961, it was a refreshing revelation that helped inform the Marvel voice and set a path for Iron Man and Spider-Man.

Kate Mara as Sue Storm, and Michael B. Jordan as Johnny Storm in a scene from Fantastic Four. BEN ROTHSTEIN/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The family aspect is derived from the brother and sister pairing of Sue and Johnny Storm, the bond between the four after they get powers, and the fact that Sue and Reed Richards eventually become Marvel's most stable couple.

But the movies have yet to get them right, or devise a structure to introduce them to fans and potential fans.

So much like Sony's two Spider-Man reboots, Fox is trying again to resurrect the first family with a cast of fresh faces in Miles Teller, Michael B. Jordan, Kate Mara, and Jamie Bell, and a promising but essentially untested director at the helm in Josh Trank. The film opens Friday.

Trank's breakout, the found footage sci-fi thriller Chronicle was the kind of sleeper hit that can make a novice filmmaker's name in Hollywood. Produced for a mere $12 million by Fox, Chronicle ended up making $126 million worldwide in 2012.

It would also be the unintentional tryout that made Trank a no-brainer to revive the thematically similar Fantastic Four.

Fox set Simon Kinberg, who'd already succeeded in helping craft the worlds of X-Men: First Class and X-Men: Days of Future Past, to produce and co-write the origin story. Trank cast his Chronicle star Jordan as Johnny Storm/Human Torch, who suggested his That Awkward Moment co-star Miles Teller for the part of the genius scientist Reed Richards/Mister Fantastic. Mara and Bell came aboard too as Sue Storm/Invisible Woman and Ben Grimm/The Thing and they were off, each knowing that success could mean a multi-film, multi-year commitment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"We all wanted to fit into Josh's ideas. We wanted to make sure we were all in the same film ... I think that's inevitably what we did.**
>
> Jamie Bell

Now playing

ANIMATION

Shaun the Sheep

Director: Mark Burton, Richard Starzak
Staring: Justin Fletcher

When Shaun decides to take the day off and have some fun, he gets a little more action than he bargained for. A mix-up with the Farmer, a caravan, and a very steep hill lead them all to the Big City and it's up to Shaun and the herd to return everyone safely.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 99% Audience: 82%

DRAMEDY

Ricki and the Flash

Director: Jonathan Demme
Starring: Meryl Streep

In a film loaded with live performances, Meryl Streep stars as Ricki, a guitar heroine who gave up everything for her dream of rock 'n' roll stardom, but is now returning home to make things right with her family. Streep stars opposite her real-life daughter Mamie Gummer.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 61% Audience: + 87%

DRAMA

Dark Places

Director: Gilles Paquet-Brenner
Starring: Charlize Theron, Christina Hendricks

Twenty-five years after testifying against her brother as the person responsible for massacring her entire family, a haunted woman (Charlize Theron) is approached by a secret society that specializes in complex, unsolved cases. Based on the novel by Gillian Flynn.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 35% Audience: + 94%

MYSTERY & SUSPENSE

The Gift

Director: Joel Edgerton
Starring: Jason Bateman, Rebecca Hall

Simon and Robyn are a young married couple whose life is going just as planned until a chance encounter with an acquaintance from Simon's high school sends their world into a harrowing tailspin. After a series of uninvited encounters and mysterious gifts prove troubling, a horrifying secret from the past is uncovered.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 92% Audience: 79%

DOCUMENTARY

How to Change the World

Director: Jerry Rothwell

In 1971 a brave group of young activists set sail from Vancouver in an old fishing boat. Their mission: to stop Nixon's atomic bomb tests in Amchitka, a tiny island off the west coast of Alaska. It was from these humble but courageous beginnings that the global organization that we now know as Greenpeace was born.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: NO SCORE YET Audience: + 87%

DRAMA

1001 Grams

Director: Bent Hamer
Starring: Ane Dahl Torp, Hildegun Riise

When Norwegian scientist Marie attends a seminar in Paris on the actual weight of a kilo, it is her own measurement of disappointment, grief and, not least, love, that ends up on the scale.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 82% Audience: 52%

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Italy earmarks 18.5-million euros to rebuild Colosseum arena floor

Best of the Pacific Northwest

What could be better than hitting the highway to see the sights in summertime? Kicking back and letting the rails carry you instead. Rocky Mountaineer's Coastal Passage Route connects Seattle with Vancouver and the Canadian Rockies, winding through scenic canyons and past sparkling waters with rich marine ecosystems. Here are some of the gems passengers will experience on this route. METRO

1 Mount Robson

The most prominent mountain in the North American Rocky Mountain Range, Mt. Robson is also the highest point in the Canadian Rockies and one of the first dramatic sights travellers will see aboard Rocky Mountaineer.

2 Pyramid Falls

Located on the east side of the North Thompson River, the beautiful Pyramid Falls are 300 feet high and cascade that distance in two large drops before flowing under the railway tracks and into the North Thompson.

4 San Juan Islands

After crossing the border, views of the beautiful San Juan Islands will slowly come into sight. And if travellers are lucky, they might even catch a glimpse of an orca whale or two.

ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

3 Hell's Gate

Travelling through the scenic Fraser Canyon, Rocky Mountaineer's guests will overlook a strange and beautiful site: 750 million litres of water travelling a 33-metre-wide passage. Known as Hell's Gate, it is one of the most treacherous passages on British Columbia's gold-bearing Fraser River.

5 Chittenden Locks

As guests near the end of the route, they'll see a complex system of locks at the west end of Salmon Bay. Part of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, the Chittenden Locks provides a link for boats between the salt water of Puget Sound and the fresh water of the Ship Canal.

SOURCE: ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

2016 OLYMPIC HOST

Wildlife, ancient pyramids among South America's treasures

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

One year from now, the world will be descending on Brazil when Rio de Janeiro hosts the 2016 Olympic Summer Games. If you want to join in on the biggest celebration of sport on Earth now, is the time to book.

CoSport is the authorized Olympic ticket reseller for Canada and the only official source for buying Olympic tickets and packages. According to CoSport, tickets are currently available for a variety of events at a range of prices. Hotel and ticket packages, which include two-, three- and four-star accommodation options, are also available. Go to cosport.com to book.

Kim Vincent, the product and business development manager for Globus Family of Brands in South America, also recommends making your arrangements now. According to her, planning a trip to Rio during the Olympics will be tricky as the hotels will likely hold back part of their inventory until closer to the start of the Games. If you can find something now, book it.

Brazil is the third-most popular destination for Globus in South America and if you are planning to head down, Vincent recommends going beyond Rio de Janeiro. Some of her suggestions include visiting Iguazu Falls, booking a lodge experience or cruise on the Amazon, or heading to the Pantanal , the country's wetlands.

"Go out with a naturalist to see the animals by foot, boat or horseback," she says. "Unlike the Amazon there is no jungle canopy so it's a great opportunity to see wildlife such as giant anteaters, anacondas and jaguars."

With a successful World Cup behind it and preparations for the Olympics well underway, Brazil has taken big steps in improving the safety and security of the country's tourist zones. Vincent says she has always felt comfortable in the country and no one needs to worry beyond taking any normal precautions when you travel.

If your trip planning should take you beyond the borders of the Olympic host country, consider checking out the Chilean fjords, the Galapagos Islands or Peru. In addition to Machu Picchu, the Inca Trail and Sacred Valley, the coastal region and northern Peru are all well worth spending time in. A one-hour flight from Lima, the Valley of the Pyramids in northern Peru is home to the remains of an ancient civilization that predates the Incas. Peru is also one of the few countries in South America that does not require Canadians to purchase a visa to enter the country.

TRAVEL NOTES

Antarctic deal
To mark its 25th anniversary, Quark Expeditions is offering up to 25 per cent off bookings made and paid for before Sept. 30, 2015, for select cruises to Antarctica from Nov. 1, 2016 to March 15, 2017. This deal includes nine express-style fly/cruise voyages that get you to the seventh continent even quicker. Visit QuarkExpeditions.com.

Scam alert
Beware of any "robocalls" you may get, even on your mobile phone, that appear to be from a hotel chain or airline, offering you free rooms or a flight discount and asking you to "press one" to collect. These are scams perpetrated to gain info about you that should remain private. Report these calls to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 888-495-8501.

Bucket list
Get five-star luxury at three-star prices at the Andaz Hotel on famed Papagayo Peninsula in north Costa Rica. Just 30 minutes from the Liberia airport, this gem sits on the black- and white-sand beaches of Culebra Bay overlooking the yachts at Marina Papagayo. Local culture, incredible design and a beautiful spa. Visit Papagayo.Andaz.Hyatt.com.

DOUG WALLACE

Antarctic adventure awaits. TIM STEWART

Phone scams sound too good to be true. PEXELS.COM

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A visitor browses a display commemorating former Reds player and manager Pete Rose at the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum. PHOTOS BY JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cincinnati a baseball mecca

OHIO

All-Star host city ready to play ball with tourists all year round

The city that hosted baseball's All-Star Game last month was the home of a team that played like all-stars back in 1869.

The Cincinnati Red Stockings went 57-0 that year as baseball's first officially professional team. Player-manager Harry Wright's team added new players before the season, led by his brother, George, who was credited with a .633 batting average and 49 homers. Disbanded because of financial issues after two seasons, the team is being honoured this summer with a variety of hometown homages.

So, even though the powdered rosin has settled following the All-Star Game on July 14, Cincinnati still has plenty to love for baseball fans. Here are some of the offerings on hand to learn more about the city's rich baseball history, as well as other milestones of America's Pastime.

See the wall of balls
Adjacent to the Great American Ball Park, where the All-Star Game was played, the Reds' own Hall of Fame and Museum is filled with artifacts and interactive exhibits covering Cincinnati players from the Wrights to the "Big Red Machine" of the 1970s to the current team.

Chief curator Chris Eckes says it's difficult to estimate the number of artifacts and display items, which include historic baseballs, uniforms, gloves, documents and photos. Start counting with a wall of 4,256 baseballs representing hometown star Pete Rose's record career-hit total.

Special exhibits this summer are Stars of the Queen City, about Reds' all-stars through the years, and one on Tony Perez, the Cuban-born slugger also in the National Baseball Hall of Fame who later this summer will become the latest Reds star honoured with a statue outside the park.

The wall of 4,192 baseballs.

Wear your black socks
The Reds' museum and Legacy Tours have teamed up for a guided 90-minute walking tour called "1919 — The Year That Changed Baseball" focusing on a colourful cast of characters from that era led by Reds president August "Garry" Herrmann.

Herrmann is credited with brokering the deal that helped form the modern major league and giving Cincinnati its first World Series title, a distinction that was marred after eight members of the Chicago White Sox were banished from baseball for fixing the Series by "throwing" it to the Reds in what became known as the Black Sox Scandal.

The museum has added Sunday tours to its regular Saturday lineup, and will run through October.

One game, many people
The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center has a new exhibit called Diversity in Baseball celebrating barrier-breaking players: black, Jewish, Native American, Latino, Asian and female — such as stars of the women's professional baseball league started during the Second World War as told in the movie A League of Their Own.

There are also displays on Jim Abbott, who overcame being born without a right hand to become a successful big-league pitcher who threw a 1993 no-hitter, and umpire Dale Scott, who last winter came out as gay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE BIG BAM

The Cincinnati Museum Center in Union Terminal has the Queen City Baseball: Diamonds & Stars exhibit. A highlight is the audio playing in the background of Waite Hoyt's last Reds radio broadcast in 1965. Hoyt, a Hall of Fame pitcher, called games for more than two decades for the Reds while plugging for sponsor Burger Beer. An on-air trademark was his tales during rain delays about former New York Yankees teammate Babe Ruth. A typed script on display at the museum recounts Ruth's love for driving at high speeds, leaving a trail of chicken carcasses behind on country roads.

metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news

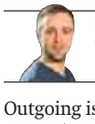
Ryan Lochte won a record fourth straight gold in 200 IM at the swimming worlds

LIONS EARN COMEBACK WIN Lions defender David Menard rushes Eskimos quarterback Matt Nichols at BC Place Stadium on Thursday night. Travis Lulay threw a touchdown to Andrew Harris with a little over a minute remaining in the game as the Lions erased a 13-point halftime deficit to win 26-23.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foster the centre of attention for the Lions

CFL

Lineman hard at work to improve on 'terrible' debut



Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Outgoing is the first word that comes to mind when chatting with B.C. Lions centre Jason Foster.

The conversation starts with football, including his brief time in the NFL, to his CFL debut, to the competition up north and how much it took him by surprise, to trying lightening up the atmosphere in the locker-room, before the microphone turns off and the chatter branches off to other topics, like baseball and the New York Yankees, among other things.

"He's a great guy to hang out with off the field. He's a funny guy, always goofing around," said running back Andrew Harris of the 26-year-old Foster.

"But when it comes to football ... he's really serious. I respect that because I'm the same kind of way."

> **You could watch the film and you could say I was the worst person on the field for the offence.**
> Jason Foster

Signed as a free agent in May and having the won the job of starting centre out of training camp the following month, Foster was forthright about his first CFL regular-season game, which came against the Ottawa Redblacks in Week 2.

He was flagged for two holding penalties — one of them was declined — and an unnecessary roughness call.

He shouldered the blame for his entire performance that night, which also included some missed assignments on his part, he conceded.

"I was a terrible offensive lineman," said Foster.

"I was like, 'It was my fault. It won't happen again.' And I've improved every week since then. Plus I had that mindset where I just ... didn't think much of the guys across from me. But these guys are very, very good."

Yes, Foster, who spent time with three NFL teams after his university career at Rhode Island, confessed he underestimated the competition in the CFL.

"Underestimated is the perfect word to use. I definitely underestimated my opponent in the first week against Ottawa," he said.

"You could watch the film and you could say I was the worst person on the field for the offence. I took full responsibility but I've definitely improved since then."

IN BRIEF

Loewen gets another shot on the mound with Phillies

Adam Loewen's baseball career has come full circle.

The Surrey native will be called up on Friday by the Philadelphia Phillies from their triple-A affiliate, marking his first time in Major League Baseball as a pitcher since 2008.

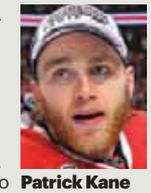
In 40 games in the minors this season, Loewen is 2-3 with a 2.01 earned-runs average and 10 saves.

The 31-year-old was drafted fourth overall in the 2002 amateur MLB draft by the Baltimore Orioles as a pitcher. He would play three seasons with the Orioles before injuries forced him to try out as a positional player. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police probe Kane

The NHL says it is "following developments" of a police investigation involving Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane.

The Blackhawks said they are in the process of gathering information and declined further comment. The Buffalo News first reported the investigation Thursday.



Patrick Kane
GETTY IMAGES

Neighbours of Kane, who lives in Hamburg, N.Y., in the off-season, told the Chicago Tribune that police arrived at his lakefront property Sunday night and that several plainclothes officers entered his house using flashlights.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Timbers make deal with D.C. United for Seaton

The Portland Timbers have acquired forward Michael Seaton from D.C. United for targeted allocation money and an international roster spot.

The 19-year-old native of Jamaica also has U.S. citizenship. He originally signed with D.C. United in 2013. He spent much of his time there on loan to the USL's Richmond Kickers and a Swedish team. He played in five MLS regular-season games.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Walker-Young's lofty ambition

PARAPAN 2015

Chef de mission wants Team Canada back on top again

Elisabeth Walker-Young
CONTRIBUTED

Elisabeth Walker-Young watched from her Vancouver home as Canadian athletes shone in front of jam-packed crowds at the Pan American Games earlier this month. Now it's time for her team to do its part.

Canada is gunning for a top-three spot in the medals table at the Parapan Am Games, which open Friday, and like its Canadian Pan Am predecessor, is fielding its biggest team ever: 216 athletes.

"Seeing their performances, and seeing them wear the red and white with pride, our athletes always build off of that," said Walker-Young. "Watching them and seeing Curt (Harnett, Canada's chef de mission for Pan Ams) lead the team, I don't know how we couldn't come in and be proud."

The four-time Paralympian in swimming is Canada's chef de mission for a Parapan Am squad that is looking to get back to a lofty spot it once occupied among the world's best.

At the Parapan Ams four years ago in Mexico, Canada finished eighth in gold medals and fifth in overall medals. Brazil dominated the Games, winning 197 medals, and a year out from hosting the Rio Paralympics will be a force to contend with in Toronto.

> **The Canadian Paralympic goal is to become leaders once again in the Paralympic movement.**
> Canada's chef de mission Elisabeth Walker-Young

The U.S. won 132 medals in Mexico, while the host country finished with 165. Canada snagged 63 medals in Guadalajara. "We used to be leaders in the Paralympic nations. The Canadian Paralympic goal is to become leaders once again in the Paralympic movement," Walker-Young said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB PHILLIES FALL TO GREINKE MAGIC Los Angeles starting pitcher Zack Greinke rounds the bases after hitting a third-inning home run in the Dodgers' 10-8 win over the Phillies on Thursday in Philadelphia. Greinke (11-2) gave up five runs before recording an out and finished with six runs allowed and seven hits in six innings. MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB IN BRIEF

Wacha digs deep for Cards
Michael Wacha gave the Cardinals' tired bullpen a respite by throwing seven innings in the rain on Thursday afternoon, and St. Louis pulled away to a 3-0 victory over the Reds in Cincinnati, taking yet another series from its NL Central rival.

Kinsler caps Tigers' win over Kansas City
Ian Kinsler hit a two-run homer off Ryan Madson in the ninth inning to lift the Detroit Tigers to a 8-6 win over the Kansas City Royals.

Jose Iglesias led off with a single against Madson (1-2) before Kinsler hit a 2-0 fastball into the bullpen in left field.

Desmond does damage to D-Backs as Nats roll in D.C.
Ian Desmond broke out of a prolonged slump with a home run and a double, and Bryce Harper reached base five times to help Washington beat Arizona 8-3.

Desmond's 12th homer of the season ended a 2-for-35 skid. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Jays singe Twins for fourth night in a row

With an uncanny combination of power and speed, the Toronto Blue Jays finished off a four-game sweep of the Minnesota Twins and are streaking into Yankee Stadium as the hottest team in baseball.

Five players drove in runs Thursday at Rogers Centre as the Blue Jays blew out the Twins 9-3 to extend their winning streak to five going into a crucial weekend series at the American League East-leading New York Yankees. Toronto has won eight of its past nine games and is now 4-1/2 games back of the division lead.

"You've got that feel every day when you come to the field, 'Who's next?'" winning pitcher Mark Buehrle said. "No matter if it's a rookie pitching or a guy that's been around for a while, you've got that feel of, 'Who's butt are we going to kick today?'"

Edwin Encarnacion drove in four runs on two doubles and his 21st home run of the season.

Seven batters either drove in or scored a run, more evidence that almost no holes exist in what has quickly become the most feared lineup around the league.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THURSDAY in Toronto

9	3
BLUE JAYS	TWINS

Edwin Encarnacion drove in four runs on Thursday night.
GETTY IMAGES

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RECIPE Grilled Peach, Arugula and Goat Cheese Salad

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Rose Reisman
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Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 4 minutes

Serves 6.

Ingredients
Dressing
- 2 Tbsp orange juice concentrate
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp honey
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 3/4 tsp minced ginger root
- Salt and pepper

Salad
- 2 large ripe peaches sliced in half, pit removed
- 6 cups arugula or baby spinach
- 1 small romaine head, chopped into bite size pieces
- 1/2 cup sliced red onion
- 1/3 cup toasted pecan halves
- 2 oz crumbled goat cheese

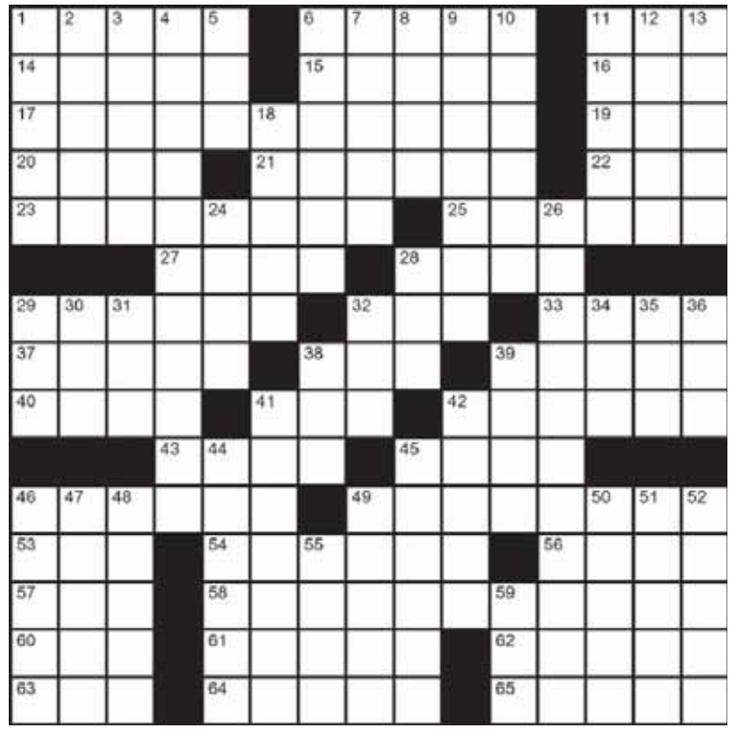
Directions
1. Dressing: Combine all the dressing ingredients in a small bowl.
2. In a hot grill pan or barbeque, grill peaches for two minutes per side. Remove to cool. Cut into wedges.
3. In a large serving platter, combine lettuces, onion, pecans and goat cheese. Add dressing and mix well.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 190
- Protein 5 g
- Carbohydrates 13 g
- Fibre 4 g
- Total fat 14 g
- Saturated fat 3.5 g
- Cholesterol 5 mg
- Sodium 105 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Pro golfer Mr. Watson
6. __ Bell (Anne Bronte's pen name)
11. Everybody
14. "We're finally __ own." - Neil Young, "Ohio"
15. Trombone part
16. Grassland
17. Area of dunes in Spruce Woods Provincial Park in Manitoba: 2 wds.
19. Lodge
20. Perform, like Shania Twain
21. "You __ there." (Comment made to the no-show-ee)
22. Famous
23. Ms. Jolie
25. Julia Louis-Dreyfus role
27. Take 15
28. _-friendly
29. Blood glucose test finger pricker
32. 'Lion' suffix
33. Actor, __ Michael Murray
37. Ms. Remini's
38. Insect immobilizer
39. Prefix to 'graph' (Record player)
40. Mlle. cousin
41. Feel awful
42. Fireplace part
43. Not is
45. Audition-er's hope
46. Madonna song: "__/Ashtangi"
49. Celebration of Greek cuisine in Toronto: Krinos Taste of the __ (August 7th to August 9th, 2015)
53. Soup sort
54. __-waist dress
56. Ms. Loughlin of "Full House"
57. Prime Minister, e.g.
58. Canadian author of Sea of Slaughter: 2 wds.
60. Wedding words
61. Coral reef type
62. Showbiz bigwig
63. Hosiery hue
64. Au courant
65. Anna Karenina, written __ __ Tolstoy

DOWN
1. Elvis song: "__ Nova Baby"
2. Remove a brooch
3. Comics sound effect for the noise a spring makes!
4. Harvey's, for one: 2 wds.
5. Jackie O's hubby
6. Acquiesce
7. Ms. Bow, the girl in "It" (1927)
8. Prong
9. Peculiarity
10. Chocolate company
11. Excuse in court
12. Russian leader, b.1870 - d.1924
13. Jessica of "American Horror Story"
18. "The __" by Chubby Checker
24. Spike and Bruce
26. Dig It! August = __ Month, in Ottawa
28. PC 'key'
29. Bean and Cool J
30. __ Lingus (Ireland's flyer)
31. Natalie Cole's father
32. Water wiggler
34. Vertical's opp.
35. "__-Man" (2015) starring Paul Rudd
36. Play-__
38. Drollness
39. Ill-gotten riches
41. Create cartoons
42. Tea sweetener
44. Tennis great Mr. Edberg; or, "The Vampire Diaries" character
45. Seldom
46. Divvy up
47. Ms. Hopper of Hollywood's heyday gossip
48. Tori Spelling's father
49. Some pickles
50. Spur's small spiked wheel
51. Air conditioners company
52. "One __ (__ the Body)" by The Rolling Stones
55. Ship's figurehead site
59. Fairy queen in literature

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You must control your temper even if you have good reason to be angry. The current cosmic picture makes disputes look bigger than they are.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
What happens over the weekend is likely to throw some of your assumptions into disarray. It may be a painful experience but it is also a useful one, especially if it inspires you to see things from a different point of view.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something in your life is coming to an end. If you try to hold on to it any longer it will be snatched from your grasp by forces much greater than you know how to deal with. Bow to the inevitable.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
There is so much that you need to stay in control of that you are beginning to fear it could all fall apart. If you stay cool, you will come through unscathed. Trust yourself.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will have to give up something and it won't be an enjoyable experience. However, its presence in your life is blocking even better things from coming in. Let it go.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will find yourself pulled between extremes over the next 24 hours. Find ways to put off making a decision as long as you can. You are under no obligation to choose one path or the other.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are spending too much time and energy on something that is of no real importance. Get your priorities in the right order. If you don't, the planets may force it on you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may never goes back on a decision but you will have to make an exception to that rule today. Once the consequences come into focus you will quickly realize you got it wrong.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to focus on what you have in common with other people rather than on what divides you. The current cosmic picture is making arguments more likely, but don't forget you have free will.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
According to the planets you have reached a point of no return. You have no choice now but to push ahead into the unknown. Where is your sense of adventure?

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Strive to stay on good terms with partners and colleagues. If you fall out it may be a long time before you get the chance to patch things up.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
At some stage today or over the weekend you will have to decide whether to follow your dream or to scale back your aspirations and take the same well-trodden path that so many have taken before you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

				3	4		5	
	7			5		4	9	
		6					1	8
	4							1
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